

Q. Do you think they're moving fast enough?

The President. Well, I think that it was a good first step. And I think you'll see some movement now. And I think it's an issue that deserves some attention, and they're obviously going to give it some. And I think that Reverend Jackson being out there will highlight the issue. So I think it's fine.

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, how about the logjam in the Senate on the economic stimulus plan? Do you think they'll be able to break that and get cloture?

The President. I don't know. We're working at it. I mean, it's a classic—there was an article in the paper today, one of the papers I saw, which pretty well summed it up. They said, you know, it's just a political power play. In the Senate the majority does not rule. It's not like the country. It's not like the House. If the minority chooses, they can stop majority rule. And that's what they're doing. There are a lot of Republican Senators who have told people that they might vote for the stimulus program but there's enormous partisan political pressure not to do it.

And of course, what it means is that in this time when no new jobs are being created even though there seems to be an economic recovery, it means that for political purposes they're willing to deny jobs to places like Baltimore and Dallas and Houston and Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and Portland and Seattle. It's very sad. I mean, the block grant program was designed to create jobs in a hurry based on local priorities, and it's one that the Republicans had always championed. Just about the only Democrat champions of the program were people like me who were out there at the grassroots level, Governors and Senators. I just think it's real sad that they have chosen to exert the minority muscle in a way that will keep Americans out of work. I think it's a mistake.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:45 a.m. aboard the MARC train en route to Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In his remarks, he referred to civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

April 6, 1993

World Trade Center Bombing

Q. President Mubarak, did you give the United States a specific warning about the World Trade Center bombing?

President Mubarak. Let me tackle this problem in the press conference, if you don't mind.

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, do you think you'll get your stimulus package intact after the recess?

President Clinton. Well, let me say this: We're going to give the Senate a chance to prove that the stated objections to some of the programs were their real objections. I mean, the American people, I'm sure, are disappointed to find that a program that would put a half-million people to work and that has the support of a majority of the United States Senate cannot be brought to a vote in the Senate, because democracy and the majority rule is being undermined.

The whole purpose of the Senate's debating rules is to allow all amendments to be offered. We've had amendment after amendment after amendment after amendment, and the Republican minority is just trying to keep it from being voted on. So we're going to give them a chance to see if they were serious about their specific concerns and if they really want to put the American people back to work or not. This is a big issue, and we'll just see what happens.

Q. You are going to have to compromise, though, aren't you?

Q. —frustrated about the delay?

President Clinton. Of course. I think that we ought to be—I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with the condition of this economy. I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with it. They were here, many of them, while we increased the national debt by 4 times, while we exploded the deficit, we drove down employment and drove up unemployment. And I've given them a plan to bring down the deficit and increase employment, put people back to work, and I

think they ought to be for it. And we'll see if they will be.

Q. How much are you willing to cut—

President Clinton. As soon as the thing is over—when they come back, we'll see whether they really care about putting people to work or whether this is all just political posturing to prove that a minority can paralyze the Federal Government. It's just more gridlock, and I think the people will rebel against it.

You can count how many people they're going to keep out of work. You will know job by job how many they'll be responsible for not putting to work. We'll see.

Q. You sound pretty passionate on the subject.

Serbia

President Clinton. What did you say about Milosevic?

Q. How do you feel—by his message?

President Clinton. Oh, that was like the Iraqi charm offensive. He's just trying to head off tougher sanctions if the Vance-Owen plan is not embraced.

Q. Is it going to work?

President Clinton. No, it won't. Of course not.

Q. Do you think he's getting the wrong message, though, sir? I mean—

President Clinton. It's pure politics. He's trying to head off tougher sanctions in the U.N. if the Serbs don't sign off on Vance-Owen. That's all that's going on there. And it won't work.

Q. Don't you think he's sending a message saying it's actually—this is great, you're not going to hound us?

President Clinton. Well, we are going to press for tougher sanctions. We'll see.

Q. You don't want any compliments from him, huh?

Q. —are you rethinking the arms embargo?

President Clinton. I'm always rethinking that. There's never been a day when I haven't rethought that. But I can't do that by myself.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Meeting With President Mubarak

Q. How about your first impression, Mr. President?

President Clinton. Very good. I'm glad to see President Mubarak. He and I have talked on the phone and worked on some things together, but this is our first personal meeting. And we'll have a press conference in a few minutes—in a couple of hours, I guess. We'll answer your questions.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Clinton referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

April 6, 1993

President Clinton. Good morning. Today I have the great pleasure of welcoming President Mubarak to Washington and to the White House. We have had an excellent meeting, and I look forward to more in the coming years, as well as to a successful conclusion of our first meeting here at lunch after this press conference.

For nearly 2 decades, Egypt and the United States have worked together in a special relationship to bring peace and stability to the Middle East. American and Egyptian soldiers have served side by side in defeating aggression in the Gulf and in bringing humanitarian relief in Somalia. American and Egyptian diplomats have worked side by side to pioneer peace with Israel and lately to bring others to the negotiating table. And after our discussions today, I am convinced that we share a common vision of a more peaceful Middle East, and we are determined to see that vision realized.

Egypt has long experience in peacemaking and knows that only negotiations can resolve longstanding grievances. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty stands as a cornerstone of our common efforts to attain a just and lasting and comprehensive settlement based upon U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and